

Acknowledgments

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challenges. Their friendship and perseverance kept me going. Nour, my Syrian daughter-in-law, whose grandfather was tortured and murdered and whose father was tortured by the regime of Hafez al-Assad, made me think hard about deterrence in all its forms, its importance to the world, and how and why it is used or not used. As I write, her family flees Aleppo amid bloodshed and death, and I am unable to find a satisfactory solution to offer her. There is a great deal about deterrence that I do not yet understand, but I can assure my readers that my critique of alliance strategy in a different time and place does not diminish my recognition that it worked in postwar Germany or my gratitude that many people were spared the anguish of living under a brutal dictatorship and the nastiness of war. I am thankful to Nour for helping me to remember that these far-away events touch us all.

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